



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Kind Helps Free Up More Funds for Farmers

**Washington, D.C.** – Late yesterday, Congress approved a measure supported by Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) to limit the transfer of certain Commodity Credit Corporation funds between conservation programs for technical assistance. The bill garnered bipartisan support and was passed by voice vote.

Through Rep. Kind's leadership efforts, conservation programs were a significant part of the 2002 Farm Bill. Congress increased the budget for conservation programs by nearly \$2 billion per year, a 75 percent increase; however, there is a current shortfall in the conservation technical assistance budget at the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This shortfall represents the costs necessary to administer the Conservation Reserve and Wetlands Reserve programs. Currently, funding for technical assistance is pulled from other programs to balance the costs.

"Passing this measure was extremely important for the hardworking farm families in Wisconsin and across America," said Kind. "Over the past two years, nearly \$200 million was diverted from voluntary conservation programs used by farmers to restore wetlands and grasslands, improve air and water quality, or protect critical habitat for wildlife. With the restoration of these funds, more farmers will be able to participate in these crucial programs."